

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A cage {1} for inclined ball bearings {9} having ball pockets {3} which are adjacent to one another on the circumferential side about a rotational axis {2} of the cage {1}, the cage comprising: {1} having the following features:

- the ball pockets {3} are delimited on the circumferential side by webs {4},
- the ball pockets {3} are delimited, in at least one axial direction of the cage {1}, in each case by a side wall {5} having an approximately uniform wall thickness,
- the side walls {5} are arched, starting from the webs {4}, at least in the axial direction,
- in each case one rib {7} emanates in the axial direction from one of the webs {4} and connects two of the side walls {5} to one another on the circumferential side, and
- each of the ribs {7} protrudes here in the axial direction from the web {4} at most to the same extent as the side walls {5} are arched, starting from the web {4}, in the axial direction.

2. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 1, in which the ribs {7} between the side walls {5} are oriented in the circumferential direction and extend in a curved manner in the circumferential direction.

3. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 2, having gaps {6} between the arched side walls {5}, each of the gaps {6} being delimited radially toward the rotational axis {2} by one of the ribs {7}.

4. The cage as claimed in claim 3, having a rib face {7a} which faces the rotational axis {2} on each of the ribs {7}, all arbitrary points of the rib face {7a} being

spaced apart radially to the same extent from the rotational axis {2} of the cage {1}, and the rib face {7a} widening in the circumferential direction with an increasing axial spacing from one of the webs {4}.

5. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 1, 2, 3 or 4~~, in which the greatest radial spacing of the ribs {7} from the rotational axis {2} is at most as great as the smallest radial spacing of each of the webs {4} from the rotational axis {2}.

6. The cage as claimed in claim 1, having a side rim {17} which runs on the circumferential side, the side rim {17} delimiting the ball pockets {3} in the opposite direction of the axial direction.

7. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 6, in which the smallest radial spacing of the side rim {17} from the rotational axis {2} of the cage {1} is greater than the greatest radial spacing of the side walls {5} from the rotational axis {2}.

8. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 1, having retaining lugs {10} which are resilient in a sprung manner for axially securing the cage {1} in an annular groove {13} on an inner ring {11}, each of the retaining lugs {10} protruding from one of the side walls {5} and being adjacent on the circumferential side to a further retaining lug {10}.

9. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 8, having grooves {18}, the wall thickness of the side walls {5} being reduced by one groove {18} each, and each of the grooves {18} being delimited in the direction of the rotational axis {2} by one of

the retaining lugs {10} and, on the side of the ball pockets {3}, by one of the side walls {5}.

10. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 9, in which the groove {18}, as viewed in a longitudinal section along the rotational axis {2} of the cage {1}, is described by a radius.

11. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 9, in which each of the grooves {18} is delimited radially to the outside proportionately by one of the side walls {5} and by two of the ribs {7} which are separated from one another in the circumferential direction by means of one of the side walls {5}.

12. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 9, in which the grooves {18} are delimited partially, in pairs radially to the outside, together by at least one of the ribs {7}.

13. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 1 claim 8 or 9, in which the retaining lugs {10} protrude in the axial direction at most to the extent that the side walls {5} protrude at most in the axial direction starting from the web {4}.

14. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 1 claim 8, 12 or 13, having circumferential gaps {16} on the circumferential side between the retaining lugs {10}, each of the circumferential gaps {16} being delimited radially to the outside partially by one of the webs {4} and by one of the ribs {7}.

15. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 8, in which flanks {14}, which face in the circumferential directions, of the retaining lugs {10} extend in an inclined manner with respect to one another.

16. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 15, in which the spacing between flanks {14}, which face one another over a circumferential gap {16}, of mutually adjacent retaining lugs {10} increases in the direction of the rotational axis {2}.

17. (Currently amended) The cage as claimed in claim 15 claim 15 or 16, in which the flanks {14} are inclined by an angle with respect to an imaginary plane {15} which emanates from the rotational axis {2} and is aligned with the rotational axis {2}.